grown it at Monrovia from seed gathered on the slopes of Mauna Loa. I have missed out on the extremely rare H. Kokio Rockii, of which only about 30 trees are in existence. The blooms are small, but appear to be made of red velvet. Neither of the two last named will cross with H. Rosa-Sinensis.

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CULTURE IN NORTH FLORIDA

-Robert H. McCubbin

By the time this issue reaches you, pruning back and Spring fertilizing should have been started. Damaged wood should have been cut back to the live or green portion. Also several feedings of a high nitrogen content should have been given the plants to stimulate growth rather than blossoms at first. After about the first of June you should ease off on the high nitrogen and supplement with a good complete fertilizer such as 4-7-5, 4-8-8 or even a 2-8-8, all with 20% or better organic material. A high potash fertilizer produces more blossoms. For those unfamiliar with the chemical proportion numbers, here is a little help. The first number in a formula, such as 4-7-5, is nitrogen. The second is phosphorus and the last number is potash. Many nurseries and the feed and seed stores can supply you with the various fertilizer formulas from stock. Consult them now.

Another important point at this time to be watchful for is pest control. As new growth and buds appear and as warm moist weather approaches, aphids and thrips are about the first to make their appearance. These are the sucker type pests and they can be very damaging if not controlled at the early stage. A little later come the chewing pests such as grasshoppers and several types of worms. A good nicotine emulsion or a mixture of Captan and Malathon will control the sucker type insects and a mixture of lead arsenate will help control the grasshoppers. Even this poison is not a sure kill for the grasshoppers so the next best thing to do is to capture and kill them by

hand or a sure method such as crushing or cutting in half. This might sound rather gruesome but the grasshoppers are too. In the use of any poisons or insecticides, by all means follow the manufacturer's instructions to the letter. This is important not only to the life of the plant but to the human body as well. When purchasing these pesticides tell your dealer your problems and let him help you decide, as he is more familiar with the qualities of his products than you.

Also now is the time for grafting and making cuttings. For grafting it is considered and proven best to use last years wood to graft to a well established good root stock. Painted Lady and Brilliant (known to some as Chinese Red) are two very hardy and fast growing varieties. This suggestion may sound rather out of place in this area with the past weather problem we have had recently but there are still many good root stock available and no doubt many of you were able to save some of your canned or potted plants that you prized.

By all means pay particular attention to watering during these warm days. In the growing and blooming season the plants take in more moisture from the roots as well as the leaves than any other time. Drying out and drooping hurts the plants and therefore will not produce the best of blooms. So, here's the best of luck to you and for more and better blossoms.

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CULTURE IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

L. K. Thompson

Now that early summer is here, your heavy pruning should be done and at least one application of complete fertilizer made. Your main problem is now with scales and insects on the tender new foliage. Take the advice of your local garden shop dealer. His advice will apply to your own particular problems better than general instructions could be given here.